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THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

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May 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT:

The Rescue of the SS Mayaguez and Its Crew

In the aftermath of the operation to rescue the SS Mayaguez and its crew, I consider it essential that we evaluate, as a means of insuring the most effective possible performance in future crises, the manner in which this operation was planned and conducted.

In order to facilitate this evaluation, I would like to receive, on a priority basis, the following:

- (a) A detailed and comprehensive chronological exposition of events and activities from the time of the seizure of the SS Mayaguez through the completion of the evacuation of Marines from Koh Tang Island, focussed on the activities of the intelligence community.
- (b) A copy of each instruction, verbal or written, issued by you or in your name to other elements of the intelligence community or to the field, from the time of the basic planning decisions made at the National Security Council meeting at 10:30 p.m. on May 13 through the evacuation from Koh Tang Island.
- (c) Any observations or suggestions which you consider would contribute to improvement in the ability of the National Security Council machinery to deal effectively with crisis situations.

This evaluation should be conducted on a very close hold basis. The material in (b) above should be submitted by noon, Tuesday, May 20, and the remainder by close of business Friday, May 23. I have

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requested similar submissions from the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

Donald R. Ford

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